

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Border Patrol - Yuma Sector
350 First Street
Yuma, Arizona 85364



NEWS RELEASE

December 10, 2002

Yuma Agents Seize 838 Pounds of Marijuana *Transported Across Colorado River*

Border Patrol Agents from the Yuma Sector seized nearly 838 pounds of marijuana near the Colorado River early this morning. The marijuana was valued at \$ 670,192.00.

At 7:30 AM, agents were patrolling the border near County 17th and the river. They observed a Ford Aerostar Van on a road that leads to the river. The van moved away from the river and towards Gadsden when the driver apparently saw Border Patrol Agents in the area. The driver immediately drove back towards the river and headed north. The agents followed the trail of the van and discovered it abandoned near County 15th. The two occupants of the van exited and ran back towards Mexico.

The agents inspected the van and found several cellophane wrapped packages that appeared to be illegal contraband. A field test was performed and the contents of the packages tested positive for marijuana. The agents took custody of the van and the contraband. Additional agents backtracked the entry and exit point of the suspects who transported the marijuana in an attempt to apprehend them. The suspects successfully fled to Mexico and Mexican authorities were alerted.

Custody of the marijuana and the van was transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration for investigation.

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